

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05347 151535Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /092 W
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R 151335Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6638

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KU

SUBJECT: GOK REPLACES BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 5056, (B) KUWAIT 5198, (C) KUWAIT 4597.

1. KUWAIT PRESS OF NOV 15 PUBLISHED TEXT OF DECREE SIGNED BY
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR "DISSOLVING" THE GOVERNING
BOARD OF THE KUWAITI LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (KLA) UNDER AUTHORITY
OF 1962 KUWAITI LAW (STATUTE 24/62) GOVERNING CLUBS, ETC. AS
IN CASE OF DISSOLUTION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF KUWAITI TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION IN OCTOBER (REF A), AND ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS AND
JOURNALISTS IN EARLY NOVEMBER (REF B), THE DECREE CITED VIOLATIONS
OF BYLAWS OF THESE GROUPS BY THEIR OWN LEADERS AND VIOLATIONS
OF BEFORE-MENTIONED STATUTE PROHIBITING ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED
UNDER IT FROM MIXING IN POLITICS. ALSO, AS IN THESE EARLIER CASES,
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05347 151535Z

THE DECREE OF DISSOLUTION NOTED THAT THE KLA HAD "ISSUED" A STATE-

MENT IN SEPT 18 IN VIOLATION OF THE CITED STATUTE, AND IT NAMED A NEW GOVERNING BOARD.

2. COMMENT: AS IN THE EARLIER CASES CITED, THE MINISTER'S ACTION FITS THE PATTERN FOR GOVERNMENTAL POLITICAL ACTION AGAINST THE DISSIDENT LEADERSHIP OF VARIOUS GROUPS, A PATTERN JUST ESTABLISHED WHEN THE SAME MINISTER DECAPITATED THE KUWAITI LABOR MOVEMENT IN LATE SEPTEMBER AFTER IT HAD ISSUED SEPT 18 DISSIDENT PAMPHLET (REF C). ALL SUBSEQUENT LEADERSHIP GROUPS OF VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS DEPOSED BY GOK HAVE BEEN CITED AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPONSORSHIP OF THAT WRITING, AND ALL GOK DECREES DISSOLVING GOVERNING BODIES OF THESE GROUPS HAVE PROCEEDED TO ENFORCE THE SAME PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY. WE CONCLUDE THAT GOK POLICY ON DISSIDENTS HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE SEPTEMBER, WHEN FIRST PUBLIC SIGNS OF REACTION AGAINST AMIRI DECREES OF AUGUST 29 WERE MANIFESTED. THIS LATEST ACTION, HOWEVER, WHEN SEEN IN LIGHT OF EARLIER GOK INTERVENTIONS INTO LEADERSHIP OF KUWAITI PROFESSIONAL/LABOR GROUPS, RAISES QUESTION WHETHER GOK IS GOING FURTHER THAN NEED BE IN ORDER TO PROVE THE POINT THAT IT FAVORS POLITICAL TRANQUILITY AND A DISSENT-FREE PUBLIC CLIMATE.

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